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December 21, 1998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTRACTS FOR O'BRIEN STADIUM RENOVATION APPROVED

CHARLESTON --The Executive Committee of Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees today via conference call approved contracts totalling more than \$1.5 million for the renovation of Eastern's O'Brien Stadium.

The renovation work will include upgrades to existing heating, ventilation, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as improvements to athletic training and office facilities. Construction is anticipated to begin next month with completion in mid-summer.

Construction contracts were awarded as follows: general construction, \$964,030, Jerry Childs of Decatur; heating, \$138,790, Reliable Plumbing and Heating, Savoy; ventilation, \$178,000, TNT Mechanical, Urbana; electrical, \$177,155, Commercial Electric, Mattoon; and plumbing, \$76,160, Reliable Plumbing and Heating, Savoy.

BLDD Architects of Decatur are completing the project design.

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In other action, the Executive Committee of the BOT approved a request to lease approximately 26,000 square feet of space in the former IGA building on Lincoln Avenue in Charleston to house a major portion of the university's library collection during the renovation of Booth Library.

Eastern will pay \$6,700 per month to rent the space for 29 months from May 1, 1999 through Sept. 30, 2001. The university has the option to renew the lease term on a month-to-month basis thereafter. The terms of the lease do not include a purchase option. The total cost for leasing the space will be \$194,300, plus utilities.

The Executive Committee of the BOT also approved the purchase of the Dale and Melanie Thornton properties located at 1915 South Ninth Street and 1906 South Tenth Street in Charleston at a cost of \$130,000, plus closing costs. Both sites are 50 feet by 140 feet for a total of 14,000 square feet. Improvements include two one-story wood frame houses of approximately 1,060 and 858 square feet, respectively.

The board also was presented with proposed revisions to board regulations regarding voluntary tax deferred annuity plans for EIU employees which will be voted on in April.